



Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board

Homeless Coalition Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

1:00 – 5:00 PM, Pacific Time – Meeting held via Zoom

Zoom Recording:

https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/oGnBnPhH_z5ZN4ZIHowK0_4SBZs6SuR-xTGLsZpPJ0yyO-S7lw75idE3_ATVSV2.jmzNls6bZiJ_tUkQ?startTime=1750881450000

Passcode: 9=PtiinK

Welcome and Roll Call Introductions (00:03:23–00:11:23)

Chair Jennielynn Holmes called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and led the HC Board in a moment of silence in sad acknowledgement of the passing of fellow Board member, Jeremy Hinojos, and in remembrance of his contributions to the Homeless Coalition as the Transitional Aged Youth representative.

Chair Holmes subsequently explained the Brown Act guidelines and Zoom rules regarding public comment. Introductions were made during roll call to welcome Rosie Traversi as the new HC Board Licensed Healthcare Organization representative.

Present: Jennielynn Holmes, Catholic Charities | Caroline Bañuelos, City of Santa Rosa | Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma | Sean Hamlin, proxy for Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Dot Norton, proxy for Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Stephen Zollman, City of Sebastopol | Emily Quig, proxy for Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Dannielle Danforth, West County Community Services | Margaret Sluyk, Reach For Home | Chessy Etheridge, Adult Lived Experience Seat | Chris Cabral, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) | Kristi Lozinto, Member At-Large | Angelica Smith, Tribal Seat | Katrina Phillips, proxy for Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat | Rebecca Sammet, LEAP Board | Rosie Traversi, Licensed Healthcare Organization Seat

Absent: Chris Coursey, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors | Martha Cheever, Community Development Commission | Jackie Elward, City of Rohnert Park | Ron Wellander, City of Sonoma | Maria Rico, BIPOC Led/Serving Organization Seat

A quorum was present.

1 - 3. Approval of Consent Calendar (00:11:24 – 00:14:25)

- Chair Jennielynn Holmes clarified that item #9 on today's agenda, "CoC Lead Agency Evaluation Ad Hoc Timeline," will be inclusive of discussion regarding the potential to move forward with a Request for Proposals (RFP) or exploring Lead Agency options, as requested at the May 28, 2025, meeting of the HC Board.

Chair Holmes also presented the following consent calendar items for approval:

1. 6/25/25 meeting agenda
2. 5/28/25 meeting minutes
3. Summary of Follow-Ups from the Previous Meeting(s)
4. Reports for Standing Committee Updates

Rebekah Sammet clarified that, although late, she was in attendance for part of the May 28, 2025, HC Board meeting. The associated meeting minutes will be edited to reflect her attendance.

- **Public Comment:** None.

Motion: Mayor Stephen Zollman moves to approve the Consent Calendar.

Second: Mayor Kevin McDonnell seconds the motion.

Abstentions: Caroline Bañuelos, Rosie Traversi, as they were not present on 5/28/25.

Objections: None.

Motion passes. The consent calendar is approved.

5. Reports from Lead Agency Staff (00:14:27 – 00:23:15)

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) 2026 Vendor Request for Proposals (RFP)

Michael Gause explained that "Bonterra" has been the primary software (Efforts to Outcomes) vendor for HMIS Services since 2013 and remains under contract until May 2027. However, per the County procurement process, a new RFP must be released on a regular basis, and will be initiated this summer for development and release either late this year or early 2026. HC Board members will be represented on the review panel. A change in software would likely require a period of two years for implementation and would also require additional funding sources to accommodate both platforms being active and overlapping during the migration, as well as to support the costs of re-training over 300 users in Sonoma County.

Public Comment: Gregory Fearon

Informational item only; no action taken.

6. All Home Funding Analysis (00:23:16 – 01:04:15)

- Michael Gause introduced All Home’s Colleen Monahan, Program Manager, and Marisa Espinoza, Research Analyst, who delivered a presentation on a funding analysis developed over multiple years by All Home staff (working pro bono) in concert with a small working group of Lead Agency staff, stakeholders, and individuals with lived experience. The resulting body of work of this Sonoma County Homelessness Funding Working Group provides a comprehensive overview of the funding landscape in Sonoma County, identifying potential future funding gaps and areas of highest priority need.

Public Comment: Gregory Fearon

Informational item only; no action taken. Additional information and the “All Home Funding Analysis for Sonoma County” document are included in the staff report for Item #6 in the packet of meeting materials.

7. Department of Health Services (DHS) Director Updates (01:04:18 – 01:38:38)

- New DHS Director Nolan Sullivan provided insight into the anticipated impacts to DHS programs from Proposition 1, which shifts the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), resulting in the move of \$9 million from mental health services to housing and homelessness.

Director Sullivan also outlined his vision for revamping the utilization of shelter beds in Sonoma County for enhanced alignment with the BHSA conversion, and announced the upcoming release of a \$10 million Measure O Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the purpose of preserving existing programs and existing units to compensate stakeholders for funding or revenue losses they may have suffered.

Public Comment: Gregory Fearon

Informational item only; no action taken.

8. Shelter Access in Community (01:38:40 – 01:46:00)

- In response to direction from the HC Board, Karissa White presented a report and spreadsheet detailing information about local emergency shelters and access in Sonoma County.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken. Additional information and a link to the spreadsheet are included in Item #8 within the packet of meeting materials.

9. CoC Lead Agency Evaluation Ad Hoc Timeline (01:46:04 – 2:34:50)

- Chair Holmes clarified that this item will also incorporate a discussion of a potential decision on developing a RFP for a Lead Agency, as requested at the May 2025 meeting.

Karissa White presented slides depicting the history of the initiation and approval of an evaluation process for the Lead Agency, as well as staff efforts in researching evaluation tools which led to HC Board approval of an existing tool from Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Appointing an hoc evaluation committee and establishing a timeline for completion of the evaluation were identified as next steps in the process.

Public Comment: None.

Motion: Mayor McDonnell moves that the HC Board form an ad hoc committee of no more than seven (7) members to conduct public meetings and effect a performance evaluation of the lead agency. The intended evaluation period will be no more than six months in length, with monthly progress reports provided to the HC Board throughout the duration.

Second: Jennielynn Holmes seconds the motion.

Proposed Amendment: Margaret Sluyk proposes an amendment to the motion to specify that the ad hoc committee meetings be closed, rather than open to the public.

Amendment Modification: Mayor McDonnell proposes a modification to this amendment to establish that an hoc committee consisting of seven (7) HC Board members be formed to hold closed meetings with the exception of two (2) meetings intended to be open to the public. Margaret Sluyk accepts this modification. Mayor McDonnell accepts the modified amendment to the original motion.

Motion with Amendment: The HC Board will establish an ad hoc committee of no more than (7) HC Board members for the purpose of conducting a performance evaluation of the Lead Agency. The intended evaluation period will be no more than six (6) months. The ad hoc committee will provide monthly reports to the HC Board. The ad hoc committee meetings will be closed, with an exception allowing two (2) meetings to be open to the public.

Second: Jennielynn Holmes seconds the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes – 12, No – 0, Abstentions: 2

Motion Passes.

Six (6) HC Board members volunteered to serve on the ad hoc committee: Jennielynn Holmes (committee facilitator), Chris Cabral, Mayor Kevin McDonnell, Rebekah Sammet, Margaret Sluyk, and Mayor Stephen Zollman. Inquiries will be made of HC Board members who are absent today to gauge interest in filling the remaining slot.

Chair Holmes will facilitate convening the ad hoc committee meetings, with County staff establishing outreach and convening public meetings.

A follow-up item to further define the process for today's ad hoc committee framework will be added to the agenda for the August 27, 2025, meeting.

The approved evaluation tool and additional information is available in today's packet of meeting materials, Item #9.

10. 8-Minute Break: 3:32 – 3:40 PM (02:34:55 – 02:44:11)

11. Service Provider Roundtable (SPR) Update (02:44:13 – 02:50:15)

- Margaret Sluyk reported that this month's Service Providers' meeting focused on funding cuts that significantly impact food provisions for shelters, as well as the Behavioral Health realignment funding process. Appreciation was also expressed for Chris Inclan, DHS Homelessness Health Program Manager, and DHS Director Nolan Sullivan for their efforts in listening and understanding providers' concerns and needs.

Public Comment: Gregory Fearon.

Informational item only; no action taken.

12. Word from the LEAP Board (02:50:18 – 02:56:08)

- Rebekah Sammet presented QR codes and details for surveys that the LEAP Board is conducting.

Public Comment: None.

Informational item only; no action taken.

13. Homeless Coalition Contracts, Reaffirming Commitment to Housing First (02:56:10 – 03:34:25)

- Michael Gause provided insight into the principles of the "Housing First" philosophy and funding requirements, leading to discussion of the complexities of "Housing First," and to gauging the HC Board's commitment to monitoring all funding for compliance with

“Housing First,” in light of indication from HUD that the federal government may be moving away from this practice.

Public Comment: Colleen Halbohm, Hunter Scott

Informational item only; no action taken. Additional information is included in the staff report for Item #13 within today’s packet of meeting materials.

14. Homeless Services Website Redesign Update (03:34:29 – 03:35:07)

- In the interest of time, Chair Holmes asks that the Homeless Services Website Redesign Update be postponed until the August 27, 2025, meeting. No objections.

15. Quarterly Membership Meeting Agenda 03:35:09 – 03:36:52)

- Jynessa Lazzaroni presented the draft agenda for the July 17, 2025, Homeless Coalition Quarterly Membership Meeting for review. No additions or changes were requested by the HC Board.

Public Comment: None.

16. Review Agenda for July Coalition Board Meeting (03:36:54 – 03:40:44)

- James Alexander presented the draft agenda for the July 23, 2025, HC Board meeting for review.

Agenda item #13, Coordinated Entry Redesign Implementation will be postponed to the August 27, 2025, meeting to allow for finalization of some redesign details.

Agenda item #5, Reports from Lead Agency Staff, will include an update from the DHS Director.

Public Comment: Gregory Fearon.

17. Board Member Questions and Comments (03:40:48– 03:41:53)

- Michael Gause – Point in Time Count press release is out.
- Katrina Phillips (proxy for Maria Rico) expresses appreciation to the HC Board for today’s meeting; she will enjoy attending future meetings as a member of the public.

Public Comment: None.

18. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda (03:41:59 – 03:42:22)

- None.

Adjournment: 4:46 PM (03:42:24 – 03:43:16)